



News Release

Arizona Department of Public Safety

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ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY SEIZES OVER 6,500 POUNDS OF MARIJUANA DURING THE MONTH OF MAY

A number of traffic stops by Highway Patrol officers with the Arizona Department of Public Safety (DPS) in a one month period resulted in the seizure of over 6,500 pounds of marijuana.

The traffic stops were made at various locations throughout the state.

The largest haul came on May 9th when officers took in more than 2,800 pounds of marijuana during a traffic stop on a commercial vehicle in southern Arizona.

"The numbers don't lie. We face a big problem with drug trafficking in this state. Thanks to the diligence of these highway patrol officers we're taking thousands of pounds of drugs off the street whether it's marijuana, cocaine or methamphetamine. We in law enforcement realize it's a battle every day and DPS is on the front lines of this effort," said Roger Vanderpool, Director of the Arizona Department of Public Safety.

Most of the marijuana seizures came after canines with DPS or the U.S. Border Patrol were used to search vehicles. The arrests and marijuana seizures were not concentrated in one area and took place at various locations throughout the state.

The latest round of seizures occurred over the Memorial Day weekend.

One of those traffic stops, which occurred on westbound Interstate 10, revealed over 300 pounds of marijuana in the rear storage compartment of a Chevrolet Avalanche. DPS K-9 "Rico" assisted with this stop. Another traffic stop in southern Arizona over the holiday weekend netted more than 500 pounds of marijuana.

The mission of the Arizona Department of Public Safety, one of the most dynamic state-level law enforcement agencies in the United States, is to protect human life and property by enforcing state laws, deterring criminal activity, assuring the safety of the motoring public on Arizona's highways and providing vital scientific, technical and operational support to other criminal justice agencies. The Department, also one of Arizona's largest law enforcement agencies with some 2,200 sworn and civilian employees, consists of four divisions – Highway Patrol, Criminal Investigations, Criminal Justice Support and Agency Support. The Department is headquartered in Phoenix and has offices located in more than 80 communities within Arizona's 15 counties.